

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

10

DECISION

TOPIC

**Final Rule - Chapter 81 – Operator Certification: Public Water Supply
Systems And Wastewater Treatment Systems**

The Commission is requested to approve the attached Final Rule, which amends Chapter 81 – “Operator Certification: Public Water Supply Systems And Wastewater Treatment Systems” of the Iowa Administrative Code (IAC). The Commission approved the Notice of Intended Action at its December meeting.

The purpose of the amendment to subrule 81.7(3) is to allow experienced water and wastewater operators to qualify for the highest grade exam (Grade 4) by substituting two years of direct responsible charge experience for one year of directly-related post-high school education. This will provide, without lowering current standards, additional qualified Iowa operators who are needed for succession as current operators retire.

Stephen Hopkins, Supervisor
Water Supply Operations Section
Water Quality Bureau
Environmental Services Division

February 12, 2007

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMISSION [567]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 455B.213 and 455B.223, the Environmental Protection Commission hereby amends Chapter 81, "Operator Certification: Public Water Supply Systems And Wastewater Treatment Systems", Iowa Administrative Code.

The amendments to subrule 81.7(3) will allow more operators the opportunity to qualify for the highest grade exam (Grade 4) through experience substitution. This will provide for additional qualified Iowa Operators, which are needed for succession as current operators retire.

The Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on January 3, 2007, as ARC 5630B. A public hearing was held on January 24, 2007. One positive comment was received in support of the rule change. The adopted amendments are identical to those published under Notice.

These amendments were adopted by the Commission on March 6, 2007.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code section 455B.213 and 455B.223.

These amendments shall become effective May 2, 2007.

The following amendments are adopted.

Amend Subrule **81.7(3)"a"** as follows:

- a. Substitution of experience for education.

(1) One year of operating experience in a Grade II or higher position may be substituted for one year of post-high school education for Grade III certification up to one-half of the post-high school education requirement.

(2) One year of operating experience in a Grade III or higher position may be substituted for one year of post-high school education for Grade IV certification up to one-half of the post-high school education requirement.

(3) Two years of direct responsible charge experience in a Grade III or higher position may be substituted for one year of directly related post-high school education for Grade IV certification up to three-fourths of the post-high school education requirement.

~~(3)~~ (4) That portion of experience which is applied toward substitution for education cannot also be used for experience.

Date

Richard Leopold, Director